

Early in her career, Mary worked in Washington, DC, with the Legal Services Corporation, an organization that provides high quality legal services to low-income people throughout the United States. She then went to work for the Child Welfare League of America, CWLA, as the director of public policy. In this role, Mary was a committed champion as she worked masterfully and persistently to seek and implement policy improvements for abused and neglected children.

Mary then took her passion and talent to the Children's Defense Fund, CDF, where she served as a powerful ally to children for 8 years. I first got to know Mary at CDF where she worked to improve the Head Start program by increasing funds dedicated to strengthening the quality of Head Start and maintaining its comprehensive approach to helping our poorest children and families. Mary was the driving force behind the Act for Better Child Care and worked overtime to help build support for the Family and Medical Leave Act.

I had the pleasure of continuing to work with Mary when she became Deputy Assistant Secretary for Legislation with the Health and Human Services office under Secretary Shalala. Mary was endlessly positive and always on the search for solutions. As she was always upbeat, it was a genuine pleasure to work with her. Mary seemed to wake up every day believing that it held an opportunity to make the world better for children.

She played a critically important role in the enactment of the Adoption and Safe Families Act, which helped to realize the goals of safety, permanence and well-being for tens of thousands of children in the child welfare system. During the negotiation of this bill at the very end of the congressional session in 1996, Mary was the Clinton administration's lead diplomat on Capitol Hill. I was keenly interested in the passage of this legislation, and Mary worked diligently, keeping me informed every step of the way and late into the night, as was her usual style, to forge a bipartisan compromise.

While serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary, Mary help lead the extraordinary effort to expand the child care and development block grant, CCDBG, ensuring that this bill included adequate funding for low-income families. She was also deeply involved in the dramatic expansion of the earned income tax credit, EITC, a credit that provides crucial income support to millions of low-income individuals and families. Since its inception, the EITC has been hailed as one of the most effective antipoverty policies ever created, and Mary was integral to its success.

Most recently, I had the pleasure of partnering with Mary in her capacity as director of government relations for Parents Action for Children. Together we sought to highlight the dangers of exposure to violent and explicit video

games to children. As she has been throughout her career, Mary was acutely focused on protecting children and empowering parents. I knew from working with Mary in the past that her involvement in this endeavor would not only ensure that it was done well but that working with her would be a real joy.

Any one who has had the pleasure of working with her would agree that Mary is not only consistently creative but also proactive and determined to improve the lives of our Nation's young people. Mary has always been a pleasure to work with; her wonderful sense of humor and a reassuring smile encourages everyone in her presence. After she retires, those of us fortunate enough to have known and worked closely with Mary will dearly miss her keen understanding of policy, her gentle manner and, most importantly, her deep commitment to children. Millions more whose her work she has touched—though they may never know her name—will miss the rare combination of caring and talent that Mary brought to her hard work on their behalf.

Long after her retirement, Mary will remain an inspiration for our efforts as we continue the fight for America's most vulnerable children.●

RECOGNIZING DR. WILLIAM T. SMITH

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding leader in the field of long-term care and aging services. Dr. William T. Smith is the outgoing chair of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, AAHSA, and I congratulate him on what has been accomplished during his 2-year term.

AAHSA serves 2 million people every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. AAHSA provides a continuum of aging services ranging from assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities, and nursing homes to home and community based programs, and senior housing. AAHSA is committed to creating the future of aging services through high-quality people can trust.

Under Dr. Smith's chairmanship, AAHSA has taken a leadership role in changing the culture of long-term care toward providing consumer oriented services in the most appropriate settings. An important element has been the Quality First Initiative, under which AAHSA members commit to continuous quality improvement in clinical care, leadership, governance, accountability, and several other elements of quality care. Dr. Smith has overseen the appointment of an independent National Commission on Quality Long-Term Care, which will evaluate the quality of long-term care, iden-

tify factors influencing the ability to improve quality of care nationally, and make recommendations about national efforts for sustainable quality improvement.

Dr. Smith's term as chair has also seen the development of the Center for Aging Services Technology, a major new initiative bringing together researchers from universities, technology companies, facility administrators and government representatives. The center focuses on the application of technology to provide aging services more effectively and affordably and to enable older Americans to maintain maximum independence, regardless of the setting in which they live.

In addition to serving as AAHSA's chair, Dr. Smith is the president and chief executive officer of Aging in America, Inc., in Bronx, NY. Aging in America is the parent corporation of Aging in America Community Services, AIA Supportive Services, Hertlin House, Morningside at Home, and Morningside House Nursing Home, whose roots date back to the 1850s. Together, these facilities provide nursing, social services, adult day services, rehabilitation, pharmaceuticals, recreation, and pastoral care annually to over 5,000 seniors and their families. All are nonprofit, nonsectarian agencies. Aging in America is another example of the way in which the field of long-term care and aging services must both diversify and integrate to provide a seamless continuum of options to tomorrow's seniors.

Dr. Smith has been in the field of social work since 1971, with the last 27 years dedicated to the field of gerontology. He is a licensed nursing home administrator, a certified social worker, and a certified retirement housing professional. He clearly has been recognized both locally and nationally as an expert on gerontological issues.

Within the next decade, the baby boom generation will move into retirement and approach the ages at which older adults generally come to need assistance with health care, housing, and supportive services. Many baby boomers already face these issues as their parents age. Dr. Smith's years of experience and his leadership in and vision for the field of aging services will continue to serve seniors and policymakers well as we prepare for the future of aging in America. Again, I congratulate him on his many accomplishments as outgoing chair of the AAHSA.●

TRIBUTE TO MS. JEAN GRUBB

● Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished Hoosier and mentor of mine, Ms. Jean Grubb, on being honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indiana High School Press Association on October 21, 2005. Ms. Grubb, an algebra teacher and publications advisor for 46 years, touched hundreds of lives with her kindness and concern for the well